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# Senator Dianne Feinstein

*of California*

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## Statement of Senator Dianne Feinstein On the Senate Vote Against the Gun Immunity Bill March 2, 2004

**Washington, DC** – In a victory for advocates of common sense gun regulation, the U.S. Senate today overwhelmingly voted down a measure to give unprecedented civil liability protection to gun manufactures and dealers. This vote came on the heels of Senate approval of an amendment sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to extend the assault weapons ban.

The bipartisan amendment, also sponsored by Senators John W. Warner (R-VA) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) would extend the current ban on the manufacture and importation of 19 types of assault weapons (and many other by characteristic) by an additional 10 years. The ban will expire on September 13, 2004 unless Congress approves the new legislation, and it is signed into law by President Bush.

The following is the text of statement made by Senator Feinstein following the vote:

**“Today, we saw the ideological and extreme view of the National Rifle Association, where they sacrificed their most wanted legislative priority here – the gun immunity legislation – because the Senate approved three amendments that would save people’s lives: amendments to extend the assault weapons ban, close the gun show loophole, and require trigger locks. I am a bit numb, and I find what happened today bizarre.**

**It is hard for me to understand why the NRA did what they did in terms of sending out an email to the U.S. Senate in the middle of deliberations. I’ve got to hand them some credit, because clearly they had the power to turn around at least 60 votes of the U.S. Senate with a third of a page print on an email, but it is not for the benefit of the majority of the American people.**

**I thought the gun immunity bill was a deeply flawed bill. It gave something to the gun industry that it shouldn’t have, that no other industry in America has, and that is why I voted against it.**

**As far as the assault weapons legislation, I will come back and come back and come back again, because this has been a ten-year crusade for me to get this done and to keep it done. We are going to persevere. People don’t know me very well if they think I am going to drop out along the way.**

**What this has clearly done is escalated this to the Presidential campaign issue. President Bush said he would sign the reauthorization of the assault weapons ban in his last campaign. And we hold him to that pledge.**

**If it weren't for the fact that President Bush had said that he would sign a straight reauthorization, we would have put in a stronger bill. We now know how to make it stronger.**

**If we come back and come back and cannot achieve a straight reauthorization and this becomes part of a Presidential campaign and our side wins the Presidential campaign, you can be sure the legislation will pass in the next session."**

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